

Ruben Grijalva, California State Fire Marshall

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Ruben Grijalva as the 13th State Fire Marshal of California on August 16, 2004. Previously, Chief Grijalva was the Fire Chief for the City of Palo Alto, California for 10 years. He has 30 years experience working in the field of Public Safety. He had worked for Palo Alto since 1990, becoming the Fire Chief in 1994. Prior to that Chief Grijalva worked for the City of Sunnyvale, California, Department of Public Safety, for 16 years working in both police and fire capacities. Chief Grijalva has expertise in criminal justice administration and the development of fire prevention and hazardous materials regulations. While in Palo Alto, he focused on introducing new technologies to the fire service, improving emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness. He has had extensive experience in negotiations of various types, from labor negotiations to legislative and code development to hostage negotiations. He was recognized for his role as the primary hostage negotiator in the 1988 incident in Sunnyvale, CA at a company named ESL where he successfully negotiated the surrender of the largest mass murderer in Santa Clara County history.